

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

The following are the Congressional proceedings of yesterday, continued from our Fourth Edition:

The Suffrage bill for the District of Columbia was taken up at 12:45. The pending question was upon Mr. Dixon's amendment, to insert as a qualification that no one who has not heretofore been allowed to vote should be allowed to read and write his name.

Mr. COWAN of Pennsylvania, opposed this as an unwarranted qualification, and as an ex post facto law. He would have had heard men here who did not seem to know what an ex post facto law is. If he had a qualification to apply, it would be that no person should be admitted to this new privilege who had given aid and comfort to the rebellion; or had heard that there were negroes here who sympathized with the rebels in the late war.

Mr. FOSTER of Connecticut, differed very widely from Mr. Cowan in his estimate of the value of reading and writing. He would have had read "Much Ado About Nothing," and that he agreed with Mr. Justice Dogberry that "to be a well formed man is to be able to read and write a little."

He (Mr. Foster) was surprised to hear the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Wilson) say that from 1780 to the present time we had suffered nothing from ignorance. It was true that most of the men who instructed the rebels were ignorant men; but most of them were lamentably ignorant of the character of northern men, and their capacity to resist the rebellion.

He (Mr. Foster) was in favor of enlarged suffrage. The broader the basis of suffrage the more stable would be the government. He would not have every person who was fit to vote do so. He would yesterday for female suffrage—not because he believed the great mass of females would vote, but because he believed that the vote for female suffrage because he could see no reason for denying the right to any person who was fit to vote.

He (Mr. Foster) expressed the fear that the ballot in the hands of ignorant freedmen would be used by the rebels to increase the number of unqualified suffrage desired to protect them. He wished Mr. Dixon's amendment was stronger. He would have been glad to see the amendment so amended that this qualification shall not apply to those who have served in the Union army.

Mr. FILLINGHUYSEN of New Jersey, replied to the argument of Mr. Cowan that this was an ex post facto law, in the punishment it provided for rebels. There was a difference between absolute rights and qualified rights. Absolute rights could not be taken away without conviction for crime, but a legislature could take away the right to vote at twenty-one years and fix it at thirty.

Mr. WILSON of Massachusetts, replied to the speech of Mr. Fillinghuyssen. He felt sorry Mr. Foster had advocated the pending amendment. While (Mr. Wilson) was opposed to making reading and writing a test, he did believe that they were great aids to a voter. If his amendment should be passed, the cause of education would be retarded in this District; the same bitter hostility to the colored race that prevailed in the States would be continued and increased.

The paragraph was stricken out—yeas 96, nays 47. Mr. SCOFFIELD, of Pennsylvania, moved to strike out the paragraph appropriating \$250,000 for the State Department, and requested information about it. He had heard it said that it was to indemnify the children of our soldiers who were established in Europe. (Laughter.)

Mr. STEVENS said that he had himself been asked to give information about it to the Appropriation Committee. He had therefore requested Mr. Seward, who is a young man, (laughter) to call upon him and give him the necessary information, and Mr. Seward had done so. He would say to gentlemen that they had talked about anything except business, and Mr. Seward had given him the facts of the appropriation which was necessary and proper. It comprised various matters.

Mr. SCOFFIELD expressed himself satisfied with the explanation. He had not known but that some part of the appropriation might have been intended to pay the expenses of the Presidential party swinging around the circle. Mr. STEVENS assured him that no part of the appropriation was to be used for that purpose, although he understood there were some unpaid bills in connection with that trip.

The amendment made on Mr. Washburne's motion in Committee, striking out an appropriation for work in the District of Columbia, Washington City was taken up, and gave rise to considerable discussion. The amendment was struck out. It makes among other appropriations the following:—Public printing, \$8,000,000 for same, to be paid out of the Treasury.

Section 1. That from and after the passage of this act each and every male person, excepting paupers and idiots, who shall have attained to the age of twenty-one years and upwards, who has not been convicted of any infamous crime or offense, and who shall have been born or naturalized in the United States, and who shall have resided in the ward or district in which he shall offer to vote three months next preceding any election therein, shall be entitled to elect, and to be elected, and to be deemed an elector and entitled to vote at any election in said District, without any distinction on account of color or race.

Section 2. That any person whose duty it shall be to receive votes at any election within the District of Columbia, who shall wilfully reject the vote of any person entitled to such right under this act, shall be liable to an action of tort by the person injured, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year in the jail of the District, or to both.

Section 3. That if any person or persons shall wilfully interrupt or disturb any such elector in the exercise of his or her right to vote, or if they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not to exceed one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Section 4. That it shall be the duty of the several courts having jurisdiction in and over said District to give this act in special charge to the grand jury at the commencement of each term of court next preceding the holding of any general city election in said District.

Section 5. That the Mayor and Aldermen of the cities of Washington and Georgetown respectively, on or before the first day of January in each year, shall prepare a list of the persons they judge to be qualified to vote in the several wards of said cities in any election, and shall cause the same to be published in the official gazette of the qualification of persons claiming the right to vote in any election therein, and for correcting the same, and for such other purposes as may be required by law.

Section 6. That on or before the first day of March the Mayor and Aldermen of said cities shall cause to be published in the official gazette a list of the persons they judge to be qualified to vote in the several wards of said cities in any election, and shall cause the same to be published in the official gazette of the qualification of persons claiming the right to vote in any election therein, and for correcting the same, and for such other purposes as may be required by law.

Section 7. That the officers presiding at any election shall and they shall be authorized to check the list herein required at the polls during the election of all officers, and no vote shall be received unless delivered by the voter in person, and the presiding officers shall have had opportunity to be satisfied of his identity and shall find his name on the list and shall mark it, and ascertain that his vote is marked on the list.

Section 8 and 9 are those added on motion of Mr. WILSON, to prevent and punish bribery at elections. On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN the Deficiency bill passed. On motion of Mr. WADE, the Senate, at 5 P. M., adjourned.

House of Representatives. Mr. DONNELLY, of Minnesota, introduced a bill to reorganize the Department of Agriculture. He ordered to be printed and referred to the Finance Committee. On motion of Mr. PIKE, the President was directed to communicate all official documents, letters, papers, reports, and all other papers in the possession of the military commission, and conviction of Crawford, Keys and others for the murder of E. Smith and others; also, in regard to their transfer from the military commission to the military commission.

On motion of Mr. FAYLOR, of Tennessee, the Secretary of War was directed to furnish any information in the War Department in reference to the military commission, and to furnish any telegraphic dispatches sent or received; also, reports and testimony taken before a military commission in that matter.

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LUMBER. 1866—SELECT WHITE PINE BOARDS, 4 and 6 inch. CHOICE PINE AND RED CEDAR, 4 and 6 inch. WHITE PINE, 4 and 6 inch. LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS!

LUMBER. 1866—CEDAR AND CYPRESS SHINGLES. LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS! LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS!

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GOAL. R. W. PATRICK & CO. NO. 304 N. BROAD ST. DEALERS IN LEHIGH AND SCHUYLKILL COAL, HAZLETON, MAHANOY, EAGLE VEIN, AND REBROKEN STOVE.

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